An Essay On The Causes which Prevent the Progress and Usefulness of Medical Science in the United States

We live in times and in a country peculiarly auspicious to the enterprises of intellect, and to the schemes of reformation.

Chapman

As well might we deny the fertility of a soil, because the owner of it neglected the proper seasons and ways of cultivating it, as deny the certainty of medicine, because it does not produce salutary effects in spite of the combination of voluntary ignorance error and vice against them.

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Prefatory Remarks

When we consider the great importance of that science, which has for its object, the alleviation of pain, the restoration of health, and the preservation of life; the humblest attempt likely to improve, or to point out its errors, must be commended.

If in weighing the hostile causes to medical science, we have noticed some which do not retard, or prevent its progress, and usefulness, either directly or indirectly; or attached too much importance to one, and not enough to another, it must be attributed to the conviction of our mind, that we were right: there is a consolation however, if wrong, that "opinionum commenta delet dies natura judicia confirmat."

We are aware that our plan, includes subjects of a general nature: such as the best mode of teaching medicine, the consid-

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eration of the necessary qualifications of those about to commence its study; as well as its connection with, and dependence on other sciences: the influence of adopting either the empirical, hypothetical, metaphysical, or physical systems: the influence of national manners, and pursuits; of the right of the interference of government in medical matters: the influence of quarantines; of slavery: and many others, incompatible with our resources, and limits, ought to be noticed. It is manifest, however; that nations collectively, like individuals, have their peculiar predilections, prejudices, and passions; and in proportion as these, are all combined and expended, on those pursuits, irrelevant to the serious prosecution of science, will the science of medicine partake of the general depreciation.

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the advancement of Medical Science.
1st The adoption of the Nosological arrangements of European writers; which, in the language of a very distinguished professor, are "characterized by gross errors, and very obvious defects."
We shall offer the following objections against retaining them, as our guides in the practice of medicine, in the United States.

1st Diseases are classed without any regularity: some from their supposed causes, prominent symptoms, effects, seats, &c.
2nd These systems were formed when the alkalescent, and putrescent states of the body, had their advocates: Chemical, and mechanical notions, also form a conspicuous part in them.
3rd A limited and peculiar train of symptoms are described: as if each com-

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particularly to individual causes, we must leave these, and others of a like general nature; to the consideration of those, at once capable and willing; and who are placed in the enjoyment of situations, which necessarily give weight and authenticity to their opinions.

To any charges, brought against us, for not acknowledging our obligations oftener, we beg leave to reply, in the language of an intelligent author, "that no assistance of other writers, can be available, without an effort almost, if not altogether, as laborious as original composition."

As in every science, its arrangement and nomenclature, must more or less influence its usefulness and progress, in proportion, to their perfection; we shall commence by noticing, as retarding very considerably

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between the physician, who, looks through the medium of books alone, and he, who, watches the intricate and diversified operations of nature.

5th The names of some diseases have a tendency to produce incorrect views of their nature, causes, and mode of cure. This will be evident when we consider, that every science, depends, in no inconsiderable degree, upon the perfection of its language. Nay there is so intimate a relation between words and facts, that every revolution which is made in the principles of a science, ought most unquestionably to be attended with a corresponding one in its nomenclature. In the language of the celebrated Chaptal, on this subject, we may say, that "it is no more possible to preserve a vicious nomenclature with a science which becomes enlightened & tended

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plaint could not be influenced or altered; by sex, age, occupation, diet, season, climate, idiosyncrasy, dress, and national manners, and from thence deduce modes of practice, which if adhered to in the treatment of the complaints of our country, would prove inert, or highly pernicious.

4th Physicians are led to prescribe for the name and not for the complaint as characterized by the symptoms. But it is evident that if the train of morbid affections can be so altered as to change entirely the nature of a disease in a few hours: that confusion and harm will inevitably be the result. Again, were these systems true, observation, and experience, would be of no utility: a good memory would alone be sufficient: experience however proves the great difference

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and simplified than to polish civilize and instruct uninformed man, without making a change in his natural language." To estimate the advantages likely to accrue from a correct medical nomenclature, we need only refer to Chemistry, and Botany; and if these, which are less subservient to the benefit of mankind than medicine, have called forth the talents and time of great men, certainly there ought to be an equal zeal evinced by those engaged in its advancement.

It is very evident, that, the science of medicine can never be stationary, so long as it continues to be a science of observation and induction; and its cultivators observe the various laws and phenomena of nature in producing new diseases, or in so combining them as to differ from antecedent ones. Dr Jackson

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has well observed "that no medical authority ought to prevail over the certain evidence of truth": nor should that authority, we may add, whether European or American, so far prevail as to prevent a deviation from it, in the names, causes, or modes of practice in diseases, when there is the slightest grounds for such a step.

The next cause we shall mention is: 2ndly An undue attachment to the "theories, and opinions of great men", which are generally recommended by elegance of expression and acuteness in reasoning: in fact, often by every thing which eloquence, imagination, or taste, can supply; to propagate delusion, and render error contagious: Conjecture, dressed in the garb of experience, and fancy, supplies the absence of truth: Thus the minds of men are so bedazzled, that they are incapable of detecting error, and are

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the genius of medicine to illumine the path, and light up the torch, for future experience.
3rd We consider every attempt to disunite experience, and reasoning, in medicine, as contributing in some degree to its retardation, and as an open avowal of empiricism: because they cannot be seperated, for this plain fact, that, to experience, is to know; to know, is to infer; and to infer, certainly is to reason.
4th Under this head may be noticed the neglect of Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Philology. Independent of their connection and utility to the science of medicine, they demand particular attention from the American; who, in the words of Oglevie is placed "on a continent of vast extent, expanded under every climate, covered with a soil inexhaustibly fertile, inlaid with every metal that ~~supplies~~ instruments for

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led off willingly, from the useful path of slow experience and induction, to wander in the wilds of conjecture; the injury sustained by mankind from this misapplication, and complete waste of mental ingenuity, is incalculable; for they not only lose the vast contributions that might have been made to general science; but the errors thus propagated, and universally diffused, are all but immortal: and certainly constitute, not the least formidable and lasting barriers to the further advancement of knowledge."

But let it not for a moment be supposed that well regulated speculations are to be condemned; for, much is manifestly due to daring investigators, who venture to traverse the night of obscurity without a guide; they often elicit scintillations from the objects they encounter, which, are caught by

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art, every mineral that affords materials for Chymical analysis, or medical science." and over which munificent nature has thrown, a vast and variegated field of omnigenous plants and trees; which in turn may contribute to amuse, support, clothe, and restore his health: these and many other advantages call on him as a friend to commerce and agriculture, as a philosopher and friend to general science, to cultivate each of these sciences with ardour: but more especially as a physician, who ought to consider every thing, which can possibly relieve his patients as belonging to his science, and as his bounden duty to let no mean escape, which, offers the least assistance, though it should seem to be, without the immediate pale of medicine.

Let us take a short view of the importance of Chemistry to the science of Medicine.

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To Chemistry we owe the introduction of some of the most powerful and useful medicines: Nitrep the antidote which alone can "strangle the Hydra of lues and generation", and emphatically called, "the Sampson, of the Materia medica": see the huge pill gathering like the snow ball as it rolled through the lapse of years, every useless article that it encountered, now divested entirely of them, and made fit for exhibition and more efficient to destroy disease.

It is well known that nothing is more embarrassing to a young physician, than the due combinations of medicines; an ignorance of which, often, subjects him to use medicines of less utility to the exclusion of more efficient ones: a knowledge of chemistry alone is capable of enabling him to avoid such otherwise inevitable mistakes: mistakes which if made are likely in many instan-

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The most deleterious poison is often rendered inert by a proper antidote: the frauds of an unjust Apothecary can be detected: these advantages are to be found in a proper knowledge of the laws of Chemistry. It enables the physician, to direct his patients in the choice, of those various mineral waters which, abound in our country; and which if used without a knowledge of their component parts, would in many cases prove inert or highly injurious.
And lastly the medical man, if a good Chemist; can support the laws of justice, and humanity, in the one case, by having the guilty punished; and in the other the innocent protected; the great responsibility which devolves on the physician in these cases, certainly ought to be sufficient, to stimulate him, to use his utmost endeavours, to meet-

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these calls of the law, which demand his opinions, with, a competent stock of chemical knowledge, to save his own reputation from any imputation of ignorance.
Next in point of importance to Medicine is Botany. The utility of this science must be apparent to all, when it is recollected that, the greater part of the articles in the materia medica are the products of the vegetable kingdom, and that the officinal and botanical names of these are generally the same: This fact proves then its utility in preventing many dangerous mistakes. The properties of plants of the same class can in many instances be judged of correctly, previous to any experiments. In fact were we deprived of the aid which it lends us, the greater part of the experience of our predecessors would be lost to us. We should have to start anew in our investigations of plants, and, like mari-
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*. Chapmans Therapeutics & Mat. Medica

thrown on their nature by the aid it lends us; thus the scales of fishes, and the reticular structure which is seen on the legs of fowls, may convey an idea of the manner in which the skin of man is formed: and the lungs of frogs and salamanders probably give a just idea of the structure of the same organ in the human subject.

Comparative Anatomy sheds light on the functions of many of the organs of our bodies. It first led to the discovery of several parts of the body, as the fallopian tubes, the lacteals, salivary glands &c. Richerand very justly observes, "of all the physical sciences, Comparative Anatomy, is that which furnishes the most useful facts to Physiology. Like physiology, it is concerned with organized living beings; there is, therefore, no need of watching against the false applications so often made from the sciences whose,

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In a country like ours, where there is every reason to believe that articles of importance still exist unknown; there is the greatest inducement to cultivate with attention and zeal a science, in which, successful investigation promises so much general benefit.

5 thly The almost complete inattention in this Country to Comparative Anatomy may be considered as a cause which prevents in some degree, at least, the progress and usefulness of Medicine: particularly if we call to mind its importance to Physiology: which is considered as the base or support of a Correct pathology: many parts of the human structure too minute to be properly understood, has considerable light thrown

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lated to cast a stigma on his reputation not to be effaced by the grave, as well as to affect the respectability of his profession.

7thly We shall next mention a cause which may appear as having but little influence in retarding medicine; we allude to the neglect of studying the diseases of domestic Animals.

But duty and interest apart; we will still have sufficient reasons to study their diseases: for considerable light may be thrown on the causes, nature, and cure, of our own diseases; their organization and principle of life are the same with ours: medicines generally have the same effect on them as on us; and the remote and proximate causes of diseases act probably in a similar manner.

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6th. By neglecting to understand, the faculties, and operations of the mind, the physician cannot perfectly understand physiology; the effects of the passions in producing diseases, or of their assistance in curing them: nor will he be able to decide on the validity of wills, or cases of injury sustained from one who is supposed to be deranged. All these circumstances necessarily call imperiously on the physician, to make himself acquainted as much as he is able with the operations of the mind in health, and disease; otherwise his practice will often be empirical and injurious; and his decisions may affect not only the property, but even the lives of innocent individuals: circumstances call cu-

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proper diet; and what means are more likely to succeed than to reverse the mode of living? "All other appeals to medical resources" says Dr Bath "are occasional and temporary, and their effects fugitive and evanescent." The late professor Barton observes that, "too much attention cannot be paid by a physician, to the effects of aliments in preventing diseases and restoring health": and Dr Cullen on the subject of aliments asserts "that it is absolutely necessary that physicians who have the whole of mankind as objects of their attention, should study this matter, without which, they cannot either percieve the causes of disease, or direct the means of obviating them."

Perhaps in no part of their medical education are physicians so deficient as on the subject of Medical Jurisprudence: and in no part ought they to be better prepared; for they are constantly

* Vide Dr Ruskin's Written Introducting Lecture.

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it occurs in the dog, is better known. Another powerful reason for taking their diseases into consideration, is, that on them, we may pursue any plan of treatment, any medicine, can be given, varying the dose at pleasure without those complaints and objections, which are so often made to any deviation, from the accustomed routine of practice.

8th. Neglecting to pay attention to diet in the prevention and cure of diseases.

This important, if, not indispensible part of knowledge, is reprehensibly neglected by most physicians. Without a due regard to diet all the medicines and attention that can be used or bestowed by the most skillful physician will be of little avail. How often do we see patients doing extremely well suddenly relapse from the least indiscretion in diet! In most chronic diseases we trace the cause to an im-

∴ Bath on the Medical Character, page 41

should he on these occasions be deficient in knowledge, he will frequently find himself subject to mortification. The life of the innocent may likewise be jeopardized by his ignorance, the reputation of individuals ruined, or the guilty absolved. The practitioner of medicine should therefore be prepared on all subjects connected with the science of medicine, he "ought to be equally liberal in knowledge and sentiment; and in fact there is no part of science physical, or moral, but which under proper regulation, and in a due degree, may be made subservient; nay, is actually necessary to perfection in medicine."*

10th ly Neglecting to make a distinction between the remedies in a disease, and those for the accidental symptoms which may arise.

Likewise in epidemic diseases incorrectly prescribing for the name of diseases because a few symptoms occasionally accompanying them are present; instead of treating the

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1st On all affections of the mind which incapacitate persons from exercising certain civil rights: and when they should be exempted from punishment for crimes.

2nd In determining how far injuries succeeded by death should be considered criminal.

3rd In cases of death whether from poisons, violence, suicide, or other causes.

4th On cases of infanticide, on the characteristics of conception, sterility, impotence, virginity, natural and artificial abortions &c.

5th On all those circumstances or diseases which should exempt a citizen from civil, or military, duty.

6th On all circumstances which influence general health arising from any cause.

In all these cases the physician is liable to be called on for his opinion in Courts of justice:

* Irwins modern Medicine page 198

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will be lost, and an empirical practice often will be the consequence of this neglect.
We would expect to find almost as much difference between the knowledge of a man, who, marked every circumstance in his practice, and he, who did not; as between the progress of a man who learnt by tradition alone; and he who had the advantages of books and conversation.
13thly The usefulness of medicine is hurtful by a belief in charms & make stones &c.
Often diseases not incurable are suffered to terminate fatally, many by using these inert remedies to the exclusion, or too late application of those, alone likely to do good.
14thly Religious errors often prevent the usefulness of medicine. We have known one or two cases, and have heard of others, in which, diseases have proved fatal from this cause. They argue that it would be impi-

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11 thly, Neglecting to ascertain the seats, and causes of diseases by dissections.

Unfortunately the prejudices on this point are so strong that the relations of the dead will seldom permit it.

12 thly, The great inattention of practitioners, and particularly the younger part, in keeping an account of the symptoms, and treatment of diseases, with the effects of particular seasons, and climate, in producing new diseases; or influencing them so as to make an alteration from the accustomed practice necessary: may be considered as not only indirectly retarding medicine but as having a more positive effect: for the symptoms and treatment of one disease, if the practitioner have many patients; will inevitably be confounded with those of another. The advantages of experience

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judgements, either, to have the appearance of doing something, or to silence the clamours of the friends of the patient. In our country, prejudices have often extended so far, as to discard a mode of practice or remedy because it was not of American origin. The mere mechanical practice of physick ought ever to be considered as absonant to the principles of morality, humanity and the real nature, and intention, of the healing art. He ought to be considered a dangerous practitioner, who, visits at stated periods, and attempts to discharge his duty according to rule; for "the most important contract that can be made, is that, which takes place between a sick man and his doctor; the subject of it is human life".*

16thly Too much scepticism or credulity, equally retard the usefulness and progress, of medicine. After a due investigation for ourselves,

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same principles a man should not attempt
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15th. Physicians do infinite harm by adher-
ing to the practice of their preceptors, or
their own, when they have positive evidence
of a better one before them. Thus, although
Currie, and Jackson, have ably and satisfac-
torily proved the great advantages to be derived
from the judicious use of cold water, and
notwithstanding the great superiority the
employment of cold air, abstinence &c. pos-
sess over the heating plan; yet so careless
are some practitioners, or powerful the
force of old habits, that they leave their
patients to be drenched with hot teas and
suffocated by warm rooms. Nay, they often
employ medicines contrary to their own

* vide Dr. Ruches Listeen Introductory Lectures

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ignorance of practice which prevails in the world: on most other subjects mankind may judge correctly; thus those who practise the mechanic art are easily detected if they are deficient in a knowledge of their trades: but the quack overtly practises medicine assisting by every possible means the destruction of his patient, by the injudicious administration of articles incompatible with a correct pathology. He consoles the friends and himself by telling them, it was some uncommon disease, or that he was called in too late; and concludes by a long and ambiguous discourse on the nature of diseases, the many cures he has accomplished, and the unremitting attention he had paid to his patient.

It may not be amiss to notice here the many lives, which have been sacrificed by the employment of ignorant mid wives. Thus the lives of two beings are often irrevocably

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or, if this cannot be done, when good authority and reason sanction our opinion, we should divest ourselves of scepticism, otherwise we check the spirit of enquiry, produce a mean opinion of the human powers, effectually chill and paralyze the ardour of genius and blast the schemes of grand and useful improvements in our science; we should even while we deem it impossible to afford relief, rather attribute that difficulty to the narrow limits of our knowledge, than to the impossibility of improvement.

17thly The employment of men unacquainted with the science of Medicine is a common and powerful cause of its retardation.

No department of science affords greater opportunity for deception. This is owing to the difficulty of studying the different branches of Medicine, and to the general

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against a rock. The case is now irremediable and might quite as well continue in the same hands, and the physician can certainly have little ambition in such cases, to be thought taking a pleasure in that, which is said to constitute the sports mans greatest delight, namely being "in at the death"

18thly The frequent wranglings and controversies among professional men, have a tendency to bring themselves and profession into discredit, and to divest the public of that confidence which is often necessary in the successful practice of medicine. Moreover a fatal effect is often the result; for it "prevents any application for advice until that period has elapsed in which, alone the powers of medicine might have proved efficacious" *

It is really humiliating to see what little things give rise sometimes to indecorum and slander. The opposition often of an opinion

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lost. Whether this proceeds on the part of the employer from false modesty, or from a fear of incurring a larger debt; it is equally reprehensible; and calls for reformation. There are too many melancholy instances occurring in the country to make it an object of little concern. It is high time for medical practitioners to assert if possible their profession from those,

"whose most tender mercy is neglect."

The bad effects do not happen to the profession, and the ignorant alone; but the reputation of physicians are affected by every species of empiricism, for often after the patient is nearly destroyed "further advice" is sent for: the domestic dabbler in drugs or the officious mid-wife, or the private practitioner, full of popular systems of medicine; find their sagacity foils them. They are like the seaman who resigns the helm to the pilot, when the vessel has been dashed

* A short view of the Importance &c. of Medicine
by Dr. I. R. Coxe

which has no foundation in the truth of things will invite all the rancour of an injured enemy. Empiricism is encouraged, for all confidence is lost by such conduct, and the quack takes advantage to ingratiate himself during the conflict. But it ought to be recollected that, he, who, from envy towards a rival, or the poor ambition of supporting error, thus wilfully retards a science which has for its object the preservation of life, is perpetrating a crime of the deepest die. A practice like this cannot be too forcibly reprehended. It is alone from the united efforts of medical men we can possibly expect the improvement of which medicine is capable: life is too short, and the field too extensive, for any man, however profound his learning, or great his industry, to cultivate, or advance at the same time, the different departments of Medicine.

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19th Ly Perhaps nothing tends to render medical assistance more useless, than the very common practice of postponing until diseases have assumed a serious nature before the physician is sent for. Thus the advantages of attacking the disease in its forming state are lost. And here it may not be amiss to notice that, physicians often when they have it in their power do not take advantage of the state just noticed. In acute diseases they frequently do not visit their patients more than once in forty eight hours, or longer. The late Dr Rush during the prevalence of the yellow fever, saved many lives by attending to certain states of the system, and taking advantage of them to administer his remedies; which, in the minds of many would have been thought of no moment.

20th An adherence to accustomed rules of practice, instead of adapting the treatment to

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the symptoms and circumstances of the disease, either, in increasing or lessening the doses of medicines, contrary, if necessary to former precedents; must manifestly tend to retard the usefulness and progress of medicine. It is by principles alone in medicine that the practitioner can be successful. We should never go solely by pounds in bleeding; or by grains or drops in administering medicines; the symptoms and effects are the only proper guides.

21st Neglecting to appreciate and encourage talents in Medicine. It is really mortifying, to see often the deserving man outstript in every respect by the assuming and far less deserving accidental discoverer of simple mechanical contrivances: or supporter of some theory or practice long before known under a different garb. We not unfrequently see men with no medical knowledge of this description brought forward by influential friends.

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22nd An undue attachment to a particular medicine or class of medicines the objections are

1st The medicine or class of medicines may not be calculated to benefit the case and if exhibited would not only prevent the application of others of more utility but prove offenceful.

2nd Diseases often require in their cure the application of different classes, and even several articles in the same class. Thus in the cure of most complaints, blood-letting, emetics, cathartics, diaphoretics, blisters &c. are actually necessary. He therefore, who, confines himself to one article, or class, commits a greater and more dangerous mistake, than the architect, who, undertakes to construct a building with one or two tools; for "in acute indispositions the cure, often turns upon a remedy being used not only on a certain day, but

∴ Vide Dr. Rushes Sixteen Introductory Lectures

plan of distinguishing and curing diseases than one or more taken seperately

24th drawing general conclusions from one or two principles, or constructing theories on false premises equally tend to impede the progress of medical science.

25th The last cause we shall mention is the application of the principles of other sciences to account for vital phenomena.

"It happened perhaps unfortunately" says Darwin "for the inquiries into the knowledge of diseases that other sciences had recieved improvements previous to their own whence instead of comparing the properties belonging to animated nature with each other they idly ingenious busied themselves in attempting to explain the laws of life by those of mechanism and chemistry"*

But animated nature bids defiance

* We are aware that Dr. Beddoes has been so sanguine as to hope by proper chemical operations, to suspend the laws of life and produce the secretion, of butter, and lard, from trees and hedges. As wild and unfounded as the declaration of Paracelsus was, that, with proper materials he could form a doctor in his retort; it is certainly not more so than the notion just noticed.

at a certain hour; purges, vomits, bleeding, blisters, sweats, and Laudanum; have all their precise days, hours, and, perhaps lesser divisions in time of being useful, before, or after which they are either ineffectual or do harm.

23rd The physiognomy of diseases are too little attended to. It includes every circumstance connected with diseases whether external or not the various shades between sameness and difference in symptoms which if rightly understood and attended to by the physician implies a capacity of distinguishing supplied by no system of nosology or descriptions however prolix or definite. The circumstances to be attended to in diseases are the pulse, the blood, the tongue, the eyes and Countenance, the several secretions, eruptions, state of heat, the state of the mind, the respiration, states of rest and watching &c. The indications from these are often of great utility and aggregately certainly lead if attended to: to a better

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* Preface to Zoonomia.

the foundation of error. would it not be better for the science, at once to acknowledge our ignorance; at the same time however, guarding strictly against the admission of erroneous principles? which when completely established though even so absurd; may like the erroneous ones of Galen, and Boerhaave, require the lapse of ages before the spirit of inquiry can be so roused as to detect and reject them. When once a hypothesis however absurd is started the human mind had rather busy itself in modifying and changing it, than to divest itself of its errors and encounter the labour of rejecting them, so as to be compelled to begin and seek out a new one by its own exertions.

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It is high time to put these errors away. Medicine possesses sufficient data to account in a more satisfactory manner for the various laws of the human economy than to require the application of the gross laws of dead matter to explain them. In no science will erroneous and dangerous results sooner occur from incorrect principles than in the science of medicine.

Every attempt made by those who are disposed to account for the various and diversified actions of vitality by mechanical or chemical principles or to encroach on what is evidently known to be correct will only serve the purpose to confirm

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Concluding Remarks

after having pointed out in the best manner we could, the commonest causes which prevent the progress and usefulness of medical science in the United States; it only remains for us to suggest how some of these may be altered, so as to be deprived of their influence.

If they proceed from being neglected, let them be adopted. If they are in operation and produce a direct influence let them be avoided. An opposite plan then to the one which is erroneous, is the surest way of making our science more useful.

But to be more precise we may observe on the subject of the abandonment of the authorities of Europe, who, have gained such universal homage to their systems, that the professors and teachers of medicine alone will be able to accomplish an object so desirable. Would not a Congress of the principal medical men of this

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Country on the same plan as the one now in operation for forming a great National Pharmacopoeia for the purpose of taking into consideration the different errors in the names views treatment &c. of diseases and of adopting such alterations as the great improvements in medicine subsequently made and the difference in climate and national manners certainly demand be of incalculable benefit not only to the American people but also to the world?

∴ The objections so often made against the plan of giving young men books pregnant with errors to read, at a time when every error is often liable to recieve the same attention as the profoundest truth, would be obviated, by presenting in one work, the many different and important truths which are diffused among so many volumes, stript of all their errors and discordant theories: and the unpleasant and mortifying task of unlearning incor-
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-rect impressions would be guarded against, by ensuring that these which are longest to remain from any science, are founded in truth and reason.

The neglect of the different departments connected with medicine, can only be obviated by the combined efforts of their cultivators and the professors of Medicine in enforcing their real and indispensable utility to the practitioner of physick.

It is the duty of the teachers of Medicine to discriminate between theories and facts; because young men are ever ready to catch at any thing which bears the least resemblance to truth, without a due examination: but it should be remembered, that between error and truth there is no connecting medium; a thing in itself is either right or wrong.

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only be rectified by time, education, and a correct and fair deportment, of physicians; and by "stripping medicine as much as possible of its technical and useless ceremonies, and placing it upon a footing with all the other sciences that are intended for the benefit and convenience of mankind."
With respect to Empiricism, whether it stalks abroad bedecked with false advertisements, or lies more concealed and domesticated, still it must be considered as highly reprehensible and injurious to the physical well being of the community: And, as people can seldom judge of the capability of the man whom they employ; would it not be a judicious plan in the legislature of each state, as guardians of the lives, as well as the property, of the people; to select and appoint a number of medical men to examine into the qualifications of those who

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might attempt to practice, without a degree from some respectable Medical institution? If the government of the United States were to pay the same attention to the encouragement of medical science as in France, where it has been placed under the particular direction and patronage of government, it would be immensely improved; and of the necessity of such a step we might adduce a number of reasons, among which may be mentioned, the large quantity of money saved to the country by keeping young men here to receive their educations; and by inducing foreigners to resort here to complete their medical studies. Experiments, likewise, too costly and laborious for one or two individuals might be prosecuted with results highly useful to the world. Independent of these considerations, interest and humanity, demand, that in war, or

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peace, medical men of acknowledged talents and experience should be employed in the army, and navy; without whom, often more die from an inattention in the construction of encampments, and their locality, from the neglect of the sick, and mode of living, than from any other source. Could any plan tend more directly to shed light on the nature of many diseases, particularly those of a contagious nature, and on the operations of medicines in general, than for the government of the United States to resign into the hands of a select number of medical men, those who have incurred by their crimes the penalty of death that experiments calculated for the advancement of medical science and consequently the general welfare of mankind might be variously devised and judiciously executed? but in all these cases the chance of

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life should be given.
Another mode of increasing a knowledge of medicine and diffusing it, is by encouraging medical works of a periodical nature: thus those at a distance and engaged in the practice will be enabled to keep pace with the improvements constantly occurring in medicine; and will likewise have a chance of joining in its advancement, by communicating faithfully any thing likely to be beneficial to the science.
But in vain may a few make attempts to overcome all the evils in medicine the united efforts of the determined supporters of the dignity and importance of the healing art will alone be sufficient: illandable ambition and pecuniary interest must not be the most powerful incentives actuating medical men. some more praiseworthy and philanthropic

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motives must influence them before they can possibly see the advancement of their science: they should ever bear in mind that

> Homines ad Deos in nulla re propius accedunt quam salutem hominibus dando —— Cicero.

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